

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM FY 78

1. SUMMARY: AS ITS CU PROGRAM FOR FY 78, POST PROPOSAL INCLUDES: SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICE, MULTI-REGIONAL GRANTEEES, LEADER GRANTS, VISITING SPEAKERS, DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS, PERIODICALS, VTR S AND FILMS AND A FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR. END SUMMARY.

2. AS A RESULT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS, CONSULATE GENERAL JERUSALEM HAS PREPARED AN INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM FOR FY 78. GIVEN THE UNIQUE STATUS OF THE POST AND ITS CONSULAR DISTRICT, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN CERTAIN AREAS. ACTION WILL BE REQUIRED FROM A NUMBER OF AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NEA/IAI, CU/NEA, USIA, AID, AND AFME).

3. SCHOLARSHIPS

A. FOR THE 1977-78 ACADEMIC YEAR, WE HAVE SENT 10 APPLICATIONS FOR STUDY FOR M.A. DEGREES TO THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (AFME) IN WASHINGTON FOR THE LATTER TO SUBMIT TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THE 10 WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED FROM MORE THAN 60 WHO MADE FORMAL APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. (DURING THE 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR, WE ASSISTED 5 M.A. CANDIDATES.)

B. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EAST JERUSALEM/WEST BANK RESIDENTS. THE POST

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01714 130807Z

IS IN PROCESS OF WORKING WITH THE AREA REPRESENTATIVE OF

AFME TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR 10-12 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES, PART OF THE FUNDS TO COME FROM CU AND PART FROM NON-US GOVERNMENT SOURCES. ALTHOUGH CU IS NOT IN THE HABIT OF GRANTING UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANCE, EVEN PARTIALLY, THE POST BELIEVES THAT AN EXCEPTION IS JUSTIFIED IN THE CASE OF JERUSALEM'S CONSULAR DISTRICT.

4. STUDENT COUNSELLING

A. AFTER A LONG GESTATION PERIOD, THE STUDENT COUNSELLING CENTER (SCC) BEGAN OPERATIONS SEPTEMBER 16, 1976. THE COUNSELLOR, HELEN ASSAD, HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN COUNSELLING FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE BOTH IN BEIRUT AND ON THE WEST BANK. MRS. ASSAD TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PERSONAL TRAVEL TO THE U.S. IN NOVEMBER TO CONSULT WITH CU AND AFME IN WASHINGTON AND TO VISIT A NUMBER OF US UNIVERSITIES.

B. INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE STUDENT COUNSELLING CENTER HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING. IF DEMAND CONTINUES TO EXPAND, WE MAY WISH TO PROVIDE THE COUNSELLOR WITH A SECRETARY-RECEPTIONIST. WE ARE ENCOURAGING, AND WE EXPECT, THE COUNSELLOR TO WORK CLOSELY WITH AFME.

5. MULTI-REGIONAL PROGRAMS

A. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN MULTI-REGIONAL PROGRAMS HAVE PRAISED THEM ENTHUSIASTICALLY. IN 1977, THE CONSULATE GENERAL PLANS TO SEEK NOMINEES FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

FOR YOUTH AND SOCIAL WORKS LATE APRIL, 1977
URBAN AFFAIRS PROJECT EARLY MAY, 1977
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE MID-JUNE 1977
INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 1, 1977
DOMESTIC FOOD SUPPLIES PROJECT SEPTEMBER, 1977

B. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE FOUND WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND ALL OF THE ABOVE, WE ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST THREE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01714 130807Z

6. LEADER GRANTS

AM THE POST HAS IDENTIFIED TWO EXCELLENT CANDIDATES FOR FY 78.

B. ONE IS THE WEST BANK CONSULTANT FOR CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT WHOSE WORK BRINGS HIM INTO CLOSE AND EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH FARMERS AND WORKERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE BETHLEHEM AND HEBRON AREAS. HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A TOUR OF CO-

OPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE U.S. AND THE STUDY OF ECONOMICS OF CO-OPERATIVES. THE CANDIDATE HAS A DEGREE FROM DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

C. THE OTHER IS THE DIRECTRESS OF THE RAMALLAH GIRLS TEACHERS TRAINING AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER WHO HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A TOUR OF U.S. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. A TOUR OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY SINCE DAY CARE CENTERS AND KINDERGARTENS ON THE WEST BANK ARE MULTIPLYING, AND THE HEADS OF MANY OF THESE CENTERS WILL BE TRAINED AT THE RAMALLAH SCHOOL.

7. VISITING SPEAKERS

A. THE POST WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE A PILOT PROGRAM OF VISITING SPEAKERS. WE BELIEVE A SPECIALIST IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IN BOTH BIR ZEIT AND BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITIES, AND POSSIBLY ALSO IN SOME OF THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

B. ALSO, NOTING THE LACK OF MODERN MARKETING EXPERTISE AMONG WEST BANK BUSINESSMEN, WE PROPOSE TO INVITE DR. JAMES HAGLAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE, TO ORGANIZE A TWO-WEEK MARKETING SEMINAR.

8. DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

A. BOTH OF THE WEST BANK'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, BIR ZEIT AND BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITIES, ARE INTERESTED IN UPGRADING THEIR LIBRARIES. FOR BIR ZEIT, WE SUGGEST A DONATION OF 500 BOOKS - TITLES TO BE SELECTED BY THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF ACQUISITIONS. FOR BETHLEHEM, WE SUGGEST 200-300 BOOKS.

B. THE SIX LARGEST MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIBRARIES. WE RECOMMEND DONATIONS OF MODERN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 JERUSA 01714 130807Z

REFERENCE WORKS TO EACH OF THE SIX.

C. THE CONSULATE GENERAL REQUESTS TO BE INCLUDED IN USIS PROGRAMS OF DONATED BOOKS AND THE NEW ARABIC BOOK PROGRAM. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE NOT REGULARLY BEEN INFORMED DIRECTLY OF AVAILABLE TITLES NOR HAVE BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS BEEN MADE FOR THE POST TO ORDER SUCH BOOKS. WE ESTIMATE THAT WE CAN USE AT LEAST 25 COPIES OF EACH ARABIC TRANSLATION AND ABOUT FIVE COPIES OF SELECTED DONATED TITLES.

9. FILM PROGRAM

A. USIS IN AMMAN AND THE U.S. CULTURAL CENTER IN JERUSALEM HAVE PUT THEIR FILM LIBRARIES AT OUR DISPOSAL, AND WE HAVE BEGUN A MODEST FILM PROGRAM AT BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY. TO MEET DEMAND FROM OTHER SCHOOLS WHICH LACK FACILITIES, WE HAVE ASKED

USIS FOR TWO PROJECTORS. VIDEOTAPE SHOWING TO MORE
SOPHISTICATED WEST BANK PALESTINIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN WELL
RECEIVED. TO FURTHER THESE CONTACTS, WE HAVE ASKED USIS
FOR A VIDEOTAPE SYSTEM.

10. FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS

A. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF BETHLEHEM
UNIVERSITY, WE PROPOSE TO SPONSOR A TEFL PROFESSOR THERE ON A
FULBRIGHT GRANT.
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